

## City of Riverside NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **Charter Review Committee Meets Tonight**

In July, the Riverside City Council appointed 17 Riverside residents to the Charter Review Committee. These residents are to review the City Charter and propose recommendations for amendment. The Committee met for the first time on August 5, where it elected Eric Haley, Executive Director of the Riverside County Transportation Committee, as Chair, and Ben Johnson, from the Alvord Unified School District, as Vice Chair. The Committee has also established a meeting schedule for every second and fourth Thursday evening at 5-6:30 p.m. (with some exceptions) in the Mayor's Ceremonial Room at City Hall. Members of the public are highly encouraged to attend.

The City Charter is the City's constitution. As such, it tells us how the city's government is organized, the roles and responsibilities of the Mayor, Councilmembers, and City Manager, how elections are conducted, and other important matters of city policy and procedures. The Charter can be adopted, changed, or repealed by a majority of the City's voters.

The charter review process is expected to span 12-15 months. Any proposed Charter amendments are anticipated for the November ballot of 2005.

Tonight's agenda includes reviewing the Charter and identifying future priority discussion items. It is anticipated that future sessions will feature appearances by the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and the City Manager. Special Community Forums spread throughout the City are also planned, the first scheduled for

October 23 from 7-8:30 p.m. at La Sierra High School's Performing Arts Center. Please call City Clerk Colleen Nicol at 826-5557 for more information.

Members of the 17-member Charter Review Committee are: Eric Haley, Ben Johnson, Damon Castillo, Marcia McQuern, Rose Mayes, Dale McNair, Dorothy Bailey, Stan Stosel, Rusty Bailey, William Turpin, Ray Higgins, Connie Leach, Gar Brewton, Mike Teer, Barry Johnson, Art Garcia, and Marjorie von Pohle.

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